

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 2 line 20 to page 3 line 4 with the following:

~~Longs~~ Long strings of lights, as are typically used, are difficult to install and consequently a householder is often inclined to leave the lights in place once they are secured. Although this avoids yearly installation and removal, the strings of lights are exposed to weather for the full year resulting in their early deterioration and, furthermore, they add nothing to, and in fact detract from, the appearance of a house between holiday seasons. Further, the permanently attached light strings may conveniently express only a single holiday.

Please insert the following new paragraphs on page 5 between lines 4 and 5:

Fig. 11 is a side view of an alternative embodiment of the device according to the present invention.

Fig. 12 is a second side view of an alternative embodiment of the device according to the present invention.

Fig. 13 is a third side view of an alternative embodiment of the device according to the present invention.

Fig. 14 is a fourth side view of an alternative embodiment of the device according to the present invention.

Fig. 15 is a top view of an alternative embodiment of the device according to the present invention.

Fig. 16 is a bottom view of an alternative embodiment of the device according to the present invention.

Fig. 17 illustrates use of a device according to the present invention to secure an item (e.g., a string of decorative lighting) into a track system.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5 lines 12-20 with the following:

It is critical that the body 12 of the lock 10 according to the present invention have a length that is substantially equal to the width of the track system into which the lock 10 is to be used. This ensures that when used, the body 12 will be able to fit within

the track system with the appropriate snug fit. Sides 13 are angled relative to each ~~other~~ such that the portion of the body that attached to the downward portion 18 is wider ~~that~~ than its opposite side. This allows the body 12, when rotated within a track of a track system, to force sides of the track outward. Further, at least one, preferably two edges 15 of the body 12 are rounded in order to allow the body 12 to more smoothly rotate with the track of the track system.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5 line 21 to page 6 line 2 with the following:

Preferably, the handle portion 14 is an ~~elongate~~ elongated piece of a sufficient size to be securely grasped between two fingers of a user. Most preferably, the handle portion 14 is substantially rectangular in shape with opposed material saving cut-outs 20, however any other suitable shape is considered to fall within the scope of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6 lines 8-13 with the following:

In use, a portion of an item (e.g., a string of decorative lighting 100 as shown in Fig. 17) to be movably secured to the track system is placed in the track system. The track system can be secured, for example, to an overhanging eave 200 of a house (as in Fig. 17). The lock 10 according to the present invention is inserted into the track, adjacent to the item to be secured. The body 12 is, initially, aligned along the length of the track system (as in Fig. 9). The user grasps the handle portion 14 and rotates the entire lock 10 by 90 degrees (resulting in the arrangement shown in Fig. 10 and Fig. 17). This forces the body 12 into snug and secure position within the track system, thereby locking the light string or other object into place in the track system.

Please replace the paragraph on page 6 lines 14-20 with the following:

There are two primary ~~embodiment~~ embodiments contemplated by the instant invention. In the first primary embodiment the length of the handle portion 14 is oriented perpendicular to the length of the body 12 (as in Figs. 1-10). Thus, when in place (where the body 12 is secure in the track), the handle portion 14 is aligned with the track system and thereby mostly inconspicuous. In the second primary embodiment the length of the handle portion 14 is oriented along the length of the body 12 (as in Figs. 11-16). Thus, when in place, the handle portion 14 is oriented perpendicular to the length of the track system.